



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**INDONESIA**

# HSPNews

Health Services Program

HSP News is published to provide program partners and stakeholders information regarding program information and activities as well as other issues related to maternal, neonatal and child health.

www.jsi.or.id

EDITION 2: MARCH, 2006

## FEATURED ARTICLES

**1**  
**Improving Infants' Chances of Survival**

**3**  
**BHS Integrated Site Visit**

**4**  
**Muhammad Usaidi: USAID'S Namesake is a Healthy Baby Boy**

**5**  
**USAID Visit to Aceh: BHS Activities are in Full Swing**

**6**  
**Dekon Funds for Maternal & Child Health**

**6**  
**Commission IX hearing Progress**

## Improving Infants' Chances of Survival:

### 81 PHYSICIANS ARE TRAINED IN NEONATAL CARE

In February, 81 Indonesian physicians participated in a ground-breaking neonatal health care training, "Basics of Neonatal Care" in two areas of Indonesia. This event provided participants with up-to-date information about emergency newborn care and the management of illness in the first 28 days of life. The trainings marked the beginning of a series of future trainings that are expected to happen across Indonesia for hundreds of health care professionals responsible for managing newborn illness, including physicians, nurses and midwives.

HSP collaborated with the Ministry of Health, and the Indonesian Pediatric Society (IDAI) to coordinate the event. Two university hospitals, the Hassan Sadikin Hospital in Bandung and the Dr. Sutomo Hospital in Surabaya, graciously hosted week-long trainings for approximately 40 physicians each specializing in neonatology, pediatrics, and general practice.

The "Basics of Neonatal Care" curriculum was based on a similar training successfully implemented in Egypt for the JSI program



"Healthy Mothers, Healthy Children," conducted by Dr. Ayman Al-Mohandes, a neonatologist and epidemiologist from George Washington University School of Public Health. The curricula, which utilized a competency-based approach, proved to be very effective in educating Egyptian health care providers. To address the need for up-to-date information on neonatal care in Indonesia, HSP invited Dr. Ayman to lead a similar training for health care providers in HSP target areas.

Dr. Hany Aly demonstrates how to clear the airway of an infant in distress.

The Health Services Program (HSP) is a USAID initiative (2005-2009) providing critical technical and financial support to the Indonesian Department of Health to improve access to quality, integrated maternal, neonatal and child health programs. The HSP cooperates with other partners of the Basic Human Services Program (BHS) in the areas of environmental services (ESP), safe water systems (SWS), nutrition education (DAP), HIV/AIDS (ASA), and education (DBE).

**Health Services Program**  
Ratu Plaza Office Building, 16th Floor  
Jl. Jenderal Sudirman Kav.9  
Jakarta 10270, Indonesia  
Tel.: (+62 21) 723 7715  
Fax.: (+62 21) 727 88924  
E-mail: hsp@jsi.or.id

Dr. Al-Mohandes was joined by Drs. Hany Aly, Elsie Mainali, Jayashree Ramasethy, and Lamiaa Mohsen in leading two trainings. Implementers modified the curricula from the trainings in Egypt to work within an Indonesian health care context. Ten faculty facilitators from the hosting university hospitals worked with training implementers, ensuring that the training materials were appropriate and translating during the sessions.

Indonesia's infant mortality rate is high relative to other Southeast Asian countries, and community-



based efforts to prevent neonatal death in the past have not proven effective enough to combat the problem.

Many Indonesian women do not have access to quality emergency care services in the event of delivery complications. Health care providers lack up-to-date information on managing infant illness, with no standards of care to follow. As a result, many are uncomfortable handling neonatal emergencies and are unsure of how to properly manage sick mothers and infants. Reference materials on neonatal care do exist, but have been found to lack competency-based training modules that emphasize practical skills.

Many health care providers who handle newborn care are well-trained in infant resuscitation, but lack information on how to manage health conditions that can occur in the ensuing first 28 days of an infant's



life. Consequently, infants who may need to be revived immediately after delivery are at greater risk of dying preventable deaths in their first month of life.

According to Dr. Al-Mohandes, a number of Indonesian health care providers are promoting healthy sustainable practices among their patients, such as exclusive breast feeding and kangaroo care. While these practices may help prevent infant illness, he says, they are not enough. "In addition to promoting healthy behaviors, there needs to be a very selective approach toward training and the implementation of supportive measures to diagnose illness and manage neonatal disease."

All participating physicians at the trainings were received a refresher course on the fundamentals of basic neonatal care and illness management, with an emphasis

on evidence-based practices. Additionally, participants were informed about the importance of supporting community interventions to emphasize healthy behaviors and identify danger signs during pregnancy.

Sessions presented a multi-tiered approach to the prevention and management of neonatal emergencies, encouraging physicians to support and coordinate their efforts with bidans (midwives), who are often the first line of service provision, resuscitating infants in distress and referring them to physicians for the next level of care.

The trainings in Surabaya and Bandung were enormously successful; participants were enthusiastic and eager to learn. Among the participants, training implementers identified potential master trainers who will replicate the training for their colleagues in other HSP target areas.

Because many children are delivered by midwives and sometimes nurses, there is a need for a continuum of care across these disciplines. In addition to replicating this training in other districts for physicians, HSP plans to work with the Department of Health develop trainings for nurses and midwives that will complement the physicians' trainings.



# BHS Integrated Site Visit

The Petojo Utara community in Gambir, along with BHS partners HSP, ESP, SWS, and Mercy Corps, hosted a visit by Mrs. Fallon, a guest from USAID. The purpose of the visit to the BHS integrated site in Central Jakarta was to share some of the community's needs, and indicate how USAID funding will support interventions in the areas of health, nutrition, sanitation and environment.

The Petojo Utara community is populated by about 750 families, around 1/3 of which are living under the poverty line. The locally-elected "RW head," Pak Irwansyah, is a charismatic local business owner who was elected to the position of RW head in 1998. He has taken a very pro-active position in improving community welfare in his area; for instance, the area has 5 community-managed public bath houses/toilets that are in fairly good condition.

During the tour, Mrs. Fallon saw the condition of the river that flows along the shore of the low-income part of the neighborhood. The neighborhood tour ended at a house where several health post (Posyandu) kader and mothers spoke about child health and nutrition

issues in the community.

After the community visit, Mrs. Fallon visited a health facility. The Puskesmas is Indonesia's model of integrated health services at the sub-district level. With a focus on primary health care services to women and children, the Gambir Puskesmas employs a total of 55 staff, including 4 doctors, 5 midwives, 12 nurses, a nutritionist and 2 sanitarians. They provide antenatal

care for pregnant women, child health services with a focus on integrated management of childhood illness, and have a maternal ward that delivers about a dozen babies per month.

Mrs. Fallon was able to see the facilities and meet with doctors and midwives performing services. She also discussed with HSP staff the type of assistance USAID provides to improve the quality of maternal, newborn and child health services.



ESP will assist the community to develop a waste management plan so that sewage does not flow directly into the river, as seen in this photo.



Mercy Corps' food security and nutrition interventions will address malnutrition in the under-five age group. SWS will introduce "Air RahMat" point of use safe water system.



ESP will provide technical assistance to improve latrine facilities.



Community members, HSP Deputy Director Laurel MacLaren and Mrs. Fallon discuss health needs of children.

# Muhammad Usaidi:

## USAID'S NAMESAKE IS A HEALTHY BABY BOY

Through the revitalization of village birthing facilities in Aceh Province, USAID is helping to ensure the safety of mothers and infants.



To ensure that pregnant women have access to skilled attendants during labor and delivery, USAID is working to revitalize Polindes facilities in partner communities. To bring these facilities to national standards, USAID performs full renovations of the buildings and procures needed furniture and medical equipment. Midwives reside in living quarters at the Polindes with their families, making them available at all times for women in need of immediate care.

Thanks to the newly renovated Polindes in Lam Gaboh Village, Dharma had the immediate support of Bidan Ratna during labor and delivery. In honor of the work USAID has done, Dharma named her son Muhammad Usaidi. “I wanted to give him a name based on his place of birth, and to show my appreciation for USAID’s assistance,” she says. Dharma likes that the Polindes is close to her home, and looks forward to visiting Bidan Ratna in the coming months for routine check-ups.

Muhammad Usaidi, now three weeks old and healthy, is just one example of the thousands of infants who have a better chance of survival when delivered with the assistance of a midwife. Dharma looks forward to Muhammad Usaidi’s future: “Of course, I want the best for him,” she says. “I hope that he will grow up to be smart, clever, religious, and kind. I want him to have a great life.” Fortunately, little Muhammad Usaidi is off to a great start.



Bidan Ratna, a midwife, lives and works at the USAID-renovated polindes where baby Muhammad Usaidi was born.

Early in the morning, 23-year-old Dharma felt her first labor contractions. She left her house in Lam Gaboh Village and walked down a shady path to her local Polindes, a birthing facility where Bidan Ratna, the village midwife, lives and works. It took her only minutes to reach her destination. She stayed with Bidan Ratna all morning, and five hours later Dharma gave birth to a healthy baby boy, Muhammad Usaidi.

Until recently, reaching a midwife or birthing facility would not have been easy for Dharma. Two months ago, there was no functioning Polindes in Lam Gaboh Village. The building was in such disrepair, it could not be used and the Polindes was closed. Unfortunately, this is not uncommon in Indonesia; thousands of women lack access to basic health care and childbirth services, especially in rural areas. As a result, women must find transportation and travel long distances for birth assistance. Otherwise, they give birth at home without any skilled attendant present. This leaves many women and infants more vulnerable to serious injury or death that could otherwise be prevented.



# USAID VISIT TO ACEH: BHS Activities are in Full Swing



Greg Adams, USAID CTO, is greeted by community members.

February 1-3, 2006, Banda Aceh - BHS program staff welcomed USAID representatives in Banda Aceh on February 1st, 2nd, and 3rd for a tour of intervention sites. The purpose of the visit was to view BHS integrated activities up-close, and monitor the progress of the program. Over the course of three days, USAID guests visited target health facilities, met with Acehan health care providers and community leaders, and discussed plans for future BHS activities.

BHS partners in Aceh welcomed USAID Cognizant Technical Officer Greg Adams, BHS/ESP officer Suzanne Billharz, HSP Chief of Party Reg Gipson, and ESP Regional Director for NAD John Pontius on the morning of February 1 at the airport in Banda Aceh. The visit commenced in the airport VIP room, where the guests met with the Governor of Aceh Province, Dr. Mustafa Abubakar, the Head of the Provincial Health Office, Dr. T Marwan Nusri, MPH; Head of the Maternal and Child Health Division, Dr. Efi Safrida, and Dr. Anisah, a representative of the Aceh Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Bureau. These government and public health leaders were already quite familiar with the BHS program, and expressed their support and enthusiasm for future BHS activities in Aceh Province.

## Visiting the Villages

That same day, the USAID delegation visited three target villages in the area: Nusa, Lam Ateuk, and Lam Gaboh. Villagers met them warmly, entertaining their guests with traditional dances, a welcome ceremony, and prayers. Heads of the villages, midwives,

and newly-formed village health committees all shared their plans for health-promoting activities in the upcoming year, and were eager to show off their improved health facilities.

The village midwife in Nusa, Qori \_\_\_\_, gave a presentation outlining the progress of the local polindes since renovation of the facility in December 2005. She presented a monthly summary of the health services provided in Nusa, and announced an important initial success: patient visits to the polindes had already increased significantly, just one month after the USAID-funded renovation.

The Provincial Health Officer gave a speech in Nusa, encouraging members of these communities to utilize and maintain the newly renovated polindes facilities. In each village, visitors were able to tour the renovated and newly-equipped polindes, meet the midwives, and were briefed on how many villagers are already benefiting from the improved facilities. In Lam Gaboh Village, a young mother had given birth earlier that day. Out of appreciation for USAID's assistance, she named her baby "Muhammad Usaidi," much to the delight of the visitors.

## Capacity Building Through Community Connections

The USAID delegation paid a visit to RSU Zainoel Abidin, Aceh's provincial teaching hospital to view the neonatal intensive care unit OB/GYN room. The hospital houses the Provincial Clinical Training Center where HSP will conduct midwife trainings for 60 midwives before the end of March.

To facilitate collaboration between HSP staff and local government, a small office space has been set up at both the provincial health and regional health offices. Because HSP works through partnership with the government to implement its activities, having space for HSP to meet and collaborate with local government is vital to program success and sustainability. At the day's end, visitors went to the provincial health office to view the new space and met with Dr. Nusri, who thanked HSP for their assistance and pledged his continued support for current and future HSP activities.

## "Prosperity for Mibo Village"

The second day included a stop in Mibo Village. The Mibo Puskesmas is an excellent example of BHS integrated activities. The head of the village expressed his thanks to HSP and ESP for the renovation of the puskesmas, because now the entire community has access to basic health services. The Mibo Village Health Committee met the visitors and shared their village vision, "Mibo Mawaddah Warrahmah," which means "Prosperity for Mibo Village."

Following the visit to Mibo, the delegation went to the Provincial IBI (Professional Midwife Association), where Ibu Syahbandi discussed recent activities and expressed her commitment to helping HSP collect data for upcoming midwife trainings. Later that day, Ibu Erni Munir, one of the most respected midwives in Aceh, discussed her plans to assist HSP with the upcoming midwifery trainings.

## Planning for Tomorrow

The third and final day of the visit was an opportunity for USAID to make plans for the future. After a discussion about the Aceh annual work plan, Greg Adams and HSP staff met with two potential partners: JHPIEGO, to collaborate for the midwife training, and with Community Habitat Finance to discuss the possibility of collaborating on a "healthy market" that will promote sanitation and healthy practices, to be built in Banda Aceh.

The USAID three-day visit was a true success; BHS staff, USAID staff, and program beneficiaries had the unique opportunity to share ideas, to celebrate, and to make plans for the future of BHS activities in Aceh. HSP staff was satisfied with the visit and looks forward to making more strides in improving the health of women and children with its BHS partners.



## DEKON FUNDS FOR MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH:

# HSP assists the Ministry of Health in Developing Spending Guidelines

HSP has a unique opportunity to assist the national government in determining how federal de-concentration (Dekon) funds will be used to improve the health of women, infants, and children in Indonesia's provinces and districts.

De-concentration funds come from Indonesian federal government. Funds are distributed among the provinces, which in turn divide their shares among districts. In the past, de-concentration funds have not been substantial, leaving individual districts with negligible funding to implement health-promoting activities at the local level.

Indonesia's de-concentration funds are considerably large this year at nearly 500 billion rupiahs (approximately 54 million USD) - an unprecedented amount. This is exciting news for the provinces and districts; the de-concentration funds will enable local governments to implement activities that strengthen their public health systems, including trainings for medical personnel

and the revitalization of community health facilities.

All provincial offices have received their share of the de-concentration funds; however, no money may be distributed to the district municipalities for program implementation until spending guidelines are set in place. With such significant funding available, the federal government wishes to ensure that districts create spending plans and use the funds in accordance with a pre-determined set of possible health activities.

HSP staff members have been working with the Ministry of Health to determine guidelines for de-concentration funds spending and processes for disseminating information to the province and district levels. Once the Minister of Health formally approves the guidelines, HSP will join representatives from the Ministry of Health to meet with stakeholders, Provincial Health Officers, and the Bureaus of Provincial Planning to facilitate the processes of implementing the guidelines and creating spending plans.

While local governments are allowed to create their own plans for the de-concentration funds, they are restricted by pre-determined spending guidelines, which they played no role in developing. To ensure that local governments have a voice in determining spending guidelines in future years, HSP plans to develop a different planning methodology for 2007 that focuses more on decision making at the district level.

Funds are to be used for a variety of local health initiatives, including midwifery trainings, physician and nurse trainings, and renovations of health facilities.

Provinces have already made plans for how to spend the funds. The centralized way that the funds are allotted at approved may pose complications for provinces that have already determined how the funds are to be spent.

Because the spending guidelines are developed at the federal level, provinces and district municipalities have not been involved in deciding how their funds are to be used.

## Commission IX Hearing Brings Progress in Enhancing Maternal and Child Health Policy

HSP provided technical assistance to Commission IX and IFPPD to host a public hearing on the gaps in the pending Health Law amendment in the area of maternal, newborn and child health. HSP supported an analysis of the amendment alongside expert health scholars and practitioners, helping Commission members to recognize that pressing issues related to MNCH were barely addressed in the amendment.

Professor Ascobat Gani, DR, PH of the University of Indonesia Department of Public Health suggested that parliament should more thoroughly address nutrition in the pending health bill. Dr. Dukman Tulus Putera of the Indonesian Pediatric Society also requested that nutrition be addressed in the bill, specifically promotion of exclusive



FORUM PARLEMEN INDONESIA  
UNTUK KEPENDUDUKAN  
DAN PEMBANGUNAN  
Indonesian Forum of Parliamentarians  
on Population and Development

breastfeeding for an infant's first six months of life and nutrition supplementation during childhood.

Dr. Putera also noted that specific policy does not yet exist to support children's basic rights regarding universal access to primary health care, complete immunizations, and medications.

Harni Kusno represented the Indonesian

Midwifery Association at the hearing. She expressed her support for a mandate that will specifically address the needs of pregnant mothers, supporting health infrastructure and the provision of maternity services.

After a thorough briefing by experts at the hearing, Dr. Imam Supardi of the Budget Commission IX Committee has a better understanding of pressing maternal and child health issues, and is supportive of developing specific policies to improve the health of women, infants and children.

Commission IX members noted that the session was one of the most substantive they had held on the health amendment, helping the move towards addressing issues that make a real difference in the health and welfare of women and children.